

What is claimed is:

1. *Escherichia coli* which has an ability to produce arginine and an ability to utilize acetate.

2. *Escherichia coli* according to claim 1, wherein
5 the bacterium forms a colony within 2 days at 37°C when the bacterium is cultivated on an agar medium containing acetic acid or acetate as a sole carbon source.

3. *Escherichia coli* according to claim 1 or 2,
10 wherein the bacterium is a derivative of *Escherichia coli* K12.

4. A method of producing arginine comprising the
15 steps of cultivating *E. coli* according to any of claims 1 to 3 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium, and collecting arginine from the medium.